

CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL
Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 24, 2016
7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Konopa led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa and Councilors Rich Kellum, Bill Coburn, Bessie Johnson, Ray Kopczynski, Dick Olsen, and Floyd Collins.

Councilors absent: None.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

There was none.

Adoption of Resolution

Modifying downtown parking regulations.

Transportation Systems Analyst Ron Irish said that the request is to change one parking space on Lyons Street to a 10-minute, customer only space, to accommodate the return of BoMack’s to the downtown area. It will be used for their take-out business so will have a high rate of turnover.

Councilor Bessie Johnson asked, have other restaurants that offer take-out asked for their own space? Would this be setting a precedent? Irish said he is not aware of another downtown restaurant that focuses on take-out similar to BoMack’s; no others have made a similar request. He described usage of spaces downtown.

Kendra Knebel, 30119 Berlin Road, Lebanon, representing BoMack’s, said there will be limited seating and eventually, a large conference room that will seat 50-60. She is concerned that with the limited seating, customers may want to take their orders to go, so the parking space would help during the transition.

MOTION: Councilor Bill Coburn moved to approve the resolution and Councilor Rich Kellum seconded it. The motion passed 6-0 and was designated Resolution No. 6529.

Adoption of Consent Calendar

- 1) Approval of Minutes
 - a) July 11, 2016, Work Session minutes.
 - b) July 13, 2016, Regular Session minutes.
- 2) Granting a 10-foot-by-50-foot underground electric power easement on City property to Pacific Power as part of the new police station development project. RES. NO. 6530
- 3) Accepting the following from Samaritan Health Services as part of the Samaritan Medical Development Project for Tax Lot 11S-04W-01AD-00200:
 - a) A 56-foot-wide right-of-way dedication deed. RES. NO. 6531
 - b) A variable width storm drainage easement. RES. NO. 6532
 - c) Two 7-foot-wide Franchise Utility Easements. RES. NO. 6533
- 4) Interlocal Participation Agreement for cooperative purchasing through BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative.

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to adopt the Consent Calendar as presented and Kellum seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

Appointment

Appointing JoAnn Miller to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Kellum moved to appoint JoAnn Miller to the Planning Commission. Kopczynski seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

Reports

Designating a Voting Delegate and Alternate for the 2016 League of Oregon Cities Conference.

MOTION: Kellum moved to appoint Konopa and Assistant City Manager/Chief Information Officer Jorge Salinas as the Voting Delegate and Alternate for the 2016 League of Oregon Cities Conference . Kopczynski seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

November and December 2016 Council meeting dates.

ACTION: The Council concurred with the calendar as presented.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL

Kellum reminded the Councilors to be thinking about parking availability on city property.

Kopczynski said he talked to Linn County Clerk Steve Druckenmiller about why they do not produce a Voter's Pamphlet. Then Druckenmiller gave Kopczynski a tour of their new electronic vote-counting system. Kopczynski said the process is fascinating, and Druckenmiller invited the Councilors to tour the facility at any time.

Konopa said that Springhill Drive residents have been complaining about speed. The neighbors didn't want two lanes. She asked Irish if there were speed counts conducted on Springhill Drive. Irish gave an update about what Benton County has done to measure the speed and what they plan to do as a result. Konopa thinks 40mph is too fast and that we should do whatever we can to calm the traffic.

Collins said he had wanted to keep the traffic circle and the double left turn lane, but both were defeated. He thinks Springhill Drive volumes and speed are both too high, and with so many driveways and turns there will be accidents there. He lives on Quarry Road and he described the traffic volumes and speeds he has noticed in the area. He does think they need to keep residential speeds at or below 40 mph.

Hare said a proven strategy to lower speeds is increased enforcement. The Police Department has been short-staffed for a while now. Chief Mario Lattanzio plans to increase and reinstate traffic patrols.

Coburn said that another option is the photo red-light cameras. Irish said that it used to be that Oregon did allow cities to utilize photo red-light enforcement, but that may have changed - he will check.

Konopa reminded the Council about the upcoming Northwest Art and Air Festival. She is appreciative of all the volunteers.

Hare reported that a truck hit the railroad trestle on 1st Avenue. The City has investigated the possibility of partnering with ODOT Rail or the Portland & Western Railroad to do better signaling. He doesn't think they can eliminate the problem, but perhaps they could put in an enhanced warning system. Irish said that the system they investigated would involve an infra-red beam mounted on the poles in advance of the crossing, and if an over-height vehicle broke the beam it would (prompt) a flashing light on the trestle. ODOT did this in Harrisburg and it was fairly successful. It cost about \$50,000 4-5 years ago. Vendors have quoted the materials at a little less than that. Another option is to contact ODOT Rail; Irish gave an update on the contacts that he has made so far.

Irish said he was concerned that if the City put up a sign, and the sign broke so an over-height vehicle traveled through, the City might incur liability. Discussion followed about the mechanics and placement of the flashing lights. Konopa noted that it is being hit more frequently because people are using their GPS and following it, and don't notice the signs. Her concern is that if they are distracted, drivers aren't going to notice flashing lights either. Irish described the signaling system that Bend uses. Discussion followed about using signage to redirect trucks away from the trestle. Irish said there are some issues with GPS directing vehicles through there.

Coburn asked if there has been any damage to the trestle. He thinks that if the trestle had been damaged, the railroad would be more interested in partnering with the City to provide better signals. Irish said no; the structure is robust.

Delapoer asked if there is a history of personal injury, or if it is damage to the vehicles. He said, the more we do to prevent it, the more liable we become. There is a balance in what we try to protect. If there is a public safety risk, we should intervene; but if it is just damage to a vehicle, then that would be less of a reason to intercede.

Hare asked, whose problem is it? If it is the driver's, then should we as a City be assuming the cost for it? Coburn said it would cost more than just the initial installation, because there would be expenses for power and maintenance, including regular inspections to make sure the system is actually working correctly.

Konopa asked if longer chains or more chains would help. Irish said the chains sometimes don't hit the cab, and by the time they hit the trailer, it is too late. Discussion followed about how information gets into GPS. Collins suggested that ODOT Trip Check may be able to flag this trestle for potential drivers in the same way that they flag construction zones.

Staff will look into options and bring the information back to the Council.

Hare said he will be talking to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on Friday about City of Albany and DEQ partnerships.

Public Information Officer/Management Assistant Marilyn Smith reported on the request for an ordinance on pot belly pigs. In her research she found two cities in Oregon (Portland and Springfield) that regulate pigs; the others do not allow swine. Both cities have size and weight limits and Springfield requires neutering. Other cities do not differentiate between potbelly pigs and swine.

Collins is not interested in allowing them, and Coburn and Johnson agreed. Konopa commented that enforcement could be difficult.

Smith gave an update on the City of Albany flag project. There are nine flag poles at City buildings; she asked, do you want them made for every flag pole? Building Maintenance suggested having 2-4 extra flags. Elmer's Flag and Banner would charge \$1,300 for 11 flags, and \$1,500 for 13 flags.

Hare recommends that they do not have flags on every building, because it does commit the City to more expense over time in terms of replacement and staff time. He supports the idea of a City of Albany flag, he just wants the Council to consider the cost and maintenance involved.

Smith said that the winner of the \$100 prize for the winning flag donated the funds to go towards the cost of the City's flags.

ACTION: The Council directed staff to order three City of Albany flags.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Mary A. Dibble, MMC
City Clerk

Wes Hare
City Manager